

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 /131 W

----- 115576

R 301315Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3615

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PINT LT SF

SUBJ: INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ACTS ON PROPOSED DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

REF : MASERU A-62

1. SUMMARY: INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY
OCT 26 THAT WHEN TIME OPPORTUNE, CIRCUMSTANCES APPROPRIATE,
AND SUFFICIENT FINANCES AVAILABLE LESOTHO SHOULD MOVE TO
ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. EFFECT OF
VOTE IS TO LEAVE LESOTHO-SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
AS DISTANT A POSSIBILITY AS BEFORE.

2. UNDAUNTED BY EARLIER TREATMENT (REFAIR) OPPOSITION UNITED
DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER CHARLES MOFELI REINTRODUCED MOTION ON
SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONS OCT 19 AND ISSUE AGAIN RAISED OCT 26
IN RAMBLING, SOMETIMES EMOTIONAL DEBATE. ON LATTER DATE ALL
BUT MOFELI AND LONE UDP NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COLLEAGUE SUPPORTED
AMENDMENT (INTRODUCED BY BNP BACK BENCHER GUT GOVERNMENT-
INSPIRED) THAT STEPS TOWARDS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SHOULD BE
TAKEN ONLY WHEN TIMING, CIRCUMSTANCES, AND FINANCIAL POSI-
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TION SUITABLE. SAME MAJORITY DEFEATED A UDP AMENDMENT TO OPEN

HEARINGS ON ESTABLISHING RESIDENT MISSION AND RAISING FUNDS
TO LAUNCH RELATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. OUTCOME OF DEBATE ON RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA WAS NEVER
IN DOUBT. GOL, HOWEVER, THIS TIME CHOSE TO ALLOW MOFELI A
CHANCE TO AIR HIS VIEWS WHICH PROVED MOST UNCONVINCING.
DECISIVE VOTE AGAINST RELATIONS NOW, COMBINING VOTES OF ALL
REPRESENTATIVES OF BASUTOLAND NATIONAL, BASUTOLAND CONGRESS,
AND MAREMATLOU FREEDOM PARTIES ALSO A MORE SATISFACTORY MEANS
OF DEALING WITH ISSUE THAN BNP-LED WALKOUT SEP 21.
FRISBIE

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